

management could have been brought before the court and would probably have radically changed the issue of the trial.

Thirdly. That the instincts and the customs of all civilized nations are opposed to the hanging of the insane.

These points are sustained in the petition by some very cogent arguments and references. Reviewing Guiteau's history, it is, for instance, probably true that during the twenty years referred to, no asylum in the world would have refused admission to Guiteau, and that in all probability none would have discharged him. And it naturally follows that as an inmate of an asylum he would not have been tried or arrested even for a murder.

It is not too late to appoint a commission of experts to examine into Guiteau's mental condition, for it can never be too late to desire to remedy an injustice. To this proposition it is replied that the public is tired of the case, does not wish to see it reopened, and in short desires an expiatory sacrifice. Since the public largely tried the case there would be nothing remarkable in allowing the same public to now decide the issue of this last appeal to the President.

It is the old story of Demagogism versus Science. Having indulged in the humiliating spectacle of a prolonged and farcical trial of a lunatic it might perhaps be well to cap the climax and hang him.

If there is to be any hope of avoiding similar spectacles in the future it lies in the direction, as the petition suggests, of appointing commissions of experts who shall make their report *before* the trial.

It is stated on good authority that Guiteau's body has been offered, either by himself or members of his family, for dissection, to the New York Medico-Legal Society. The price demanded is \$1,000. A distinguished neurologist and member of the Society has been asked to make a *post-mortem*. The daily press had already stated that the body was for sale, but the above direct proposition brings to mind, in a somewhat startling manner, the disgraceful nature of this proceeding. That the lunatic himself

should authorize it, is not unnatural; but that his family should countenance or abet the sale, is heinous. A *post-mortem* in the interest of science, to discover, if possible, an anatomical basis of insanity, is highly desirable; but it is scarcely possible to conceive of the mercenary attitude of a family that could acknowledge itself to be actuated by motives of this nature. We trust that the statement may prove to be subject to extenuating modifications.

IN a book review that appeared in the last number of the JOURNAL, Dr. E.G. Loring of this city was inadvertently confounded with Dr. Loring, a brother residing in Washington, who testified to the physical condition of Guiteau's eyes. By comparing the testimony of the one with the writings of the other, the former Dr. Loring is placed in the position of having contradicted himself. Simple mention of the facts dispels the error.

DR. William A. Hammond has resigned the position of Professor of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System in the University of the City of New York. His resignation is accompanied by similar resignations of all the members of the "Post-Graduate Faculty," with the exception of Dr. A. E. McDonald.

It is generally understood that these resignations are based upon an amicable difference of opinion between the Governing Faculty and the Post-Graduate Faculty, concerning the methods to be followed in promoting advanced instruction in special subjects indicated by the titles of the Chairs held by the several resigning Professors.

The result will probably be the formation of a "Post-Graduate" school, in which the teaching of Neurology and Psychiatry will hold an important position.

DRS. Seguin, Flint, and Jacobi were unanimously elected corresponding members for America of the Verein für innere Medicin of Berlin, at a meeting held on January 30, 1882; and Sir Wm. Gull and Drs. Grainger Stewart and Pavy, corresponding members for England.